Remarks/Arguments

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Goddard (U.S. Patent No. 6,684,240 B1).

The present invention, as recited by claim 1, describes a method for personalizing rating limits in a parental control system, comprising: enabling reproduction of a rating sample having a first rating from a first source; detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample; generating a first transition point based on the user input and the first rating; and using the first transition point to determine whether data from the first source is output or blocked.

It is respectfully asserted that Goddard fails to disclose "detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample," as described in claim 1.

The present invention defines "sample" as "image (e.g., video, text, etc.) and/or audio content," and the specification continues to explain that the "rating sample comprises image data (e.g., video, still shot, text, etc.) and is output for display on [the] display." (Specification, page 5, line 28; page 7, lines 10-12) The present invention does not depend upon broadcast television programs as the object of the user's evaluation. Instead, the present invention provides sample content which may be used by the user to indicate acceptability. This is particularly advantageous in that preferences may be expressed in a single training session without requiring extensive viewing of actual television programs by the user.

Goddard teaches "a method of setting acceptable content rating parameters for filtering content in a ratings-enabled media wherein the acceptable content rating parameters delimit the threshold content ratings levels of content that may be accessed by an information appliance is provided. Employing the present method, a user may set the acceptable content rating parameters of a content control system by blocking or unblocking example content provided by the information appliance, in order to control future access to content similar to the example content. In this manner, specific knowledge of the content

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ratings scheme employed, or the meaning of specific content ratings used by such a scheme is not required." (Goddard Abstract)

The Office Action asserts that "Goddard discloses a method for personalizing rating limits in a parental control system (See Fig. 3), comprising: enabling reproduction of a rating sample (e.g. television media that is example content) having a first rating (e.g. G, PG, PG-13, R, etc.) from a first source (e.g. MPAA) (See col. 1 lines 41-46 and col. 5 lines 52-67); detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample (See Fig. 5; col. 10 lines 15-45; the user inputs whether the example content is acceptable or not); generating a first transition point (e.g. adjusting the acceptable content rating parameters) based on the user input (See Fig. 5, user input) and the first rating (e.g. G, PG, PG-13, R, etc.) (See col. 7 lines 31-41); and using the first transition point (e.g. the acceptable content rating parameters) to determine whether data from the first source is output or blocked (See Fig. 3; col. 7 lines 31-41)." (Office Action, pages 2-3)

The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion that Goddard discloses "detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample," as described in claim 1. The portion of Goddard cited by Examiner discloses "a field may be provided allowing the authorized user to select users and or groups of users for which ... television programs similar to the television program currently being viewed are to be blocked in the future," but makes no reference to the user indicating acceptability of a "rating sample" as defined by the present specification. (See col. 10 lines 24-29) Furthermore, while Goddard discloses that "a user may set acceptable content rating parameters based on the rating of example content by blocking or unblocking the example content," the "example content" of Goddard is television programs, as opposed to the rating samples as defined by the present invention. (See col. 2 lines 33-36) Therefore, Goddard fails to disclose "detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample," as described in claim 1.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 enabling disclosure provided by Goddard that makes the present invention as claimed in claim 1 unpatentable. It is further submitted that
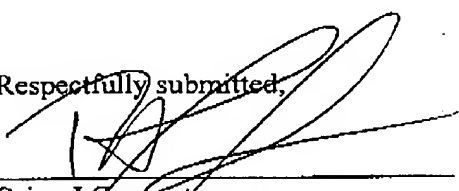
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independent claims 7 and 13 are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Since dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 are dependent from allowable independent claims, it is submitted that they too are allowable for at least the same reasons that their respective independent claims are allowable. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that this rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's representative at (609) 734-6804, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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